IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying network traffic comprising:

receiving pattern matching data;

comparing the pattern matching data with a pattern;

determining whether the pattern matching data matches the pattern; and

concluding based at least in part on a determination that the pattern matching data matches the pattern that a network traffic with which the pattern matching data is associated is associated with an application protocol with which the pattern is associated.

~~assigning a first score to a first match if the pattern matching data matches the pattern;~~

~~comparing the pattern matching data with a second pattern; and~~

~~assigning a second score to a second match if the pattern matching data matches a second pattern~~.

2. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, wherein the pattern matching data includes application data.

3. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, in the event that the pattern matching data matches the pattern, further including determining a property associated with the network traffic.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, in the event that the data matches the pattern, further including determining a property associated with the data and assigning a score for the property.

6. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, in the event that the data matches the pattern, further including determining a property associated with the data; and applying a policy based on the property.

7. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, further comprising assigning a score to a match if the pattern matching data matches the pattern.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, wherein the pattern matching data includes a string selected from a packet.

11. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, wherein pattern matching data includes concatenated application data of a plurality of packets.

12. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, wherein the pattern includes a regular expression.

13. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, wherein the pattern includes application protocol information.

14. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, wherein the pattern includes commonly used port information.

15. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, in the event the data does not match the pattern, further comprising returning a failure indicator.

16. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, wherein determining whether the pattern matching data matches the pattern occurs at the beginning of session.

17. (Original) A method for identifying network traffic as recited in Claim 1, wherein comparing the pattern matching data with a pattern is performed for each received data.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying network traffic comprising:

an interface configured to receive pattern matching data;

a processor configured to:

compare the pattern matching data with a pattern;

determine whether the pattern matching data matches the pattern; and

conclude based at least in part on a determination that the pattern matching data matches the pattern that a network traffic with which the pattern matching data is associated is associated with an application protocol with which the pattern is associated.

~~assign a first score to a first match if the pattern matching data matches the pattern;~~

~~compare the pattern matching data with a second pattern; and~~

~~assign a second score to a second match if the pattern matching data matches a second pattern.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for identifying network traffic, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:

receiving pattern matching data;

comparing the pattern matching data with a pattern; and

determining whether the pattern matching data matches the pattern; and

concluding based at least in part on a determination that the pattern matching data matches the pattern that a network traffic with which the pattern matching data is associated is associated with an application protocol with which the pattern is associated.

~~assigning a first score to a first match if the pattern matching data matches the pattern;~~

~~comparing the pattern matching data with a second pattern; and~~

~~assigning a second score to a second match if the pattern matching data matches a second pattern.~~

22. (Canceled)